

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A method for performing transactions over the internet comprising the steps of:
  - 2 providing a host web site capable of routing web users from the host web site
  - 3 to other web sites;
  - 4 arranging with a cooperating vendor web site to accept payment from the
  - 5 host web site in return for the vendor web site's fulfillment of a
  - 6 customer purchase request made by a customer routed to the vendor
  - 7 web site via the host web site;
  - 8 providing software to be installed on the vendor web site to recognize when a
  - 9 customer has been routed to the vendor web site from the host web
  - 10 site;
  - 11 requesting and obtaining customer's payment information by the vendor web
  - 12 site after an affirmative act by the customer is made to make a
  - 13 purchase on the vendor's web site;
  - 14 transferring customer's payment information from the vendor web site to the
  - 15 host web site when the software on the vendor web site has
  - 16 determined that the customer has been routed to the vendor web site
  - 17 from the host web site;
  - 18 collecting the funds for the transaction by the host web site using the
  - 19 customer's payment information transferred in the preceding step;

20 requesting and obtaining additional information necessary to fulfill the  
21 customer's purchase request by the vendor web site;  
22 fulfilling the customer's purchase request by the vendor web site; and  
23 transferring a percentage of the funds collected by the host web site to the  
24 vendor web site upon completion of the preceding step

1 2. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 1 wherein the host  
2 site can route web users to a plurality of vendor sites.

1 3. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 2 wherein the step  
2 of fulfilling a customer's purchase request comprises the act of shipping a product to the customer.

1 4. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 1 further  
2 comprising a step for storing information with respect to a plurality of transactions.

1 5. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 1 wherein the step  
2 of recognizing recognize when a customer has been routed to the vendor web site from the host  
3 web site comprises the recognition of a cookie placed on the customer's computer by the host web  
4 site

1 6. The method for performing transactions over the internet of Claim 1 further  
2 comprising the step of creating a modified URL of the vendor's web site to distinguish customer's  
3 routed from the host web site from customers not routed from a host web site.

1        8.            The method for performing transactions over the internet of Claim 2 further  
2        comprising the step of generating a database of information collected from the vendor web sites.

1           9.           The method for performing transactions over the internet of Claim 1 further  
2   comprising the step tracking the status of each transaction, where the status can be obtained by  
3   commands on the host web site.

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a2